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Everybody Welcome

COLORADO SPRINGS
diversity forum

2011 in Review

Over the course of the year CSDF has trained forty-four facilitators and organized one hundred and thirty-eight individuals into small groups representing a wide variety of interests, backgrounds and viewpoints to gather in one another's homes five times over six months to discuss challenging topics over a shared meal with the guidance of a trained facilitator through our dialogue series **Food for Thought – Breaking Bread Building Bridges**.

We have presented numerous **educational workshops, activities, speakers and presentations** including, partnering to present the MLK Breakfast featuring a speaker on immigration, York the Explorer - Black History Live for Black history month, diverseABILITY valentine card making for seniors and people with disabilities, What do I need to know about Memorial Health System?, the History of our Sister City relationship with Fujiyoshida, Japan, Colorado's WWII Japanese internment Camp Amache, Bridging Military to Community and, Journey to Forgiveness: the Legacy of the Boarding School. Two forums on Health Care Exchange and co-host Soda Springs author Dr. Terry Marshall and illustrator Chuck Assay.

The nationally recognized **EVERYBODY WELCOME™: A Celebration of Culture and Diversity** A Celebration of Culture and Diversity is the city of Colorado Springs' diversity week hosted annually in August by CSDF. The event created an opportunity for our citizens and businesses to recognize and appreciate the rich diversity in our community, to demonstrate the value of inclusiveness and communicate that appreciation to those inside and outside our community. The intent is to continually expand our collaborative efforts to create a week of activities hosted throughout the community around the topics of diversity and inclusion modeled after the All Pikes Peak Reads program.

In 2011 more than 15,000 attendees enjoyed a showcase of the diversity of talented local performers, artisans, cultural craftsmen through distinct educational activities and exhibits at the opening festival. The event closed with a sneak peek at the celebration of our 50th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Fujiyoshida, Japan in 2012. Japanese traditional dancers, Taiko Society drumming and a very special performance of their City song by a group of Junior High School Students visiting from Fujiyoshida, Japan.

We partnered with a newly formed group to present the first **Latino Community Luncheon**. And we celebrate our community's rich history of inclusion with our annual reenactment of Fannie Mae Duncan's **Cotton Club**. Suga Bear and the Showtime Band played for approximately four hundred enthusiastic revelers and all enjoyed learning about and honoring a local, historic proponent of inclusion **Henry Sachs**.

In the spring CSDF hosts three nomination workshops to encourage nomination for **Diversity and Inclusion Awards** by businesses and organizations in the Pikes Peak Region demonstrating and promoting Diversity and Inclusion in internal operations and civic engagement. Qualified judges evaluate inclusive organizational policies and benefits, commitment to diversity training, education, and volunteerism at all operational levels. Winning nominations were awarded at the 2nd Annual CSDF Diversity and Inclusion Awards Luncheon.